

THE MASSACHUSETTS CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS QUINCENTENNIAL COMMISSION

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FACT SHEET

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In response to encouragement at the national level, Massachusetts, in December of 1984, became one of the first states to establish through legislation an official commission to plan celebratory events for the 500th anniversary of the Voyages of Christopher Columbus. The Massachusetts Christopher Columbus Quincentennial Commission includes fifty-six individuals, some appointed by designation in its enabling legislation and others appointed by the Governor. State Senator Louis P. Bertonazzi (D-Milford), who, in 1984 introduced the Commission's enabling legislation, was appointed to the Commission by the President of the Senate and was subsequently elected Chairman by the Commission members. The Massachusetts Commission is broadly representative of individuals and groups across the Commonwealth and is statutorily charged with the responsibility of devising plans and programs for the observance of the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyages. Also, like its national counterpart, the Christopher Columbus Quincentenary Jubilee, the state Commission is expected to serve as the focal point for all quincentennial commemorative activities as they occur throughout the state over the next three years.

PROGRAMMING

The Massachusetts Quincentennial Commission's goal is to provide the state with a comprehensive commemorative program that includes, but goes far beyond, parties and parades. The Commission has proposed, in its document entitled "Celebrate Discovery!", a Blueprint of events and programs designed to incorporate the spirit and excitement of Columbus' discoveries and to encourage all citizens of the state to participate in the programming.

A first step toward achieving this goal was taken in May, when the Commission endorsed two separate nonprofit corporations which will be the administrative and financing vehicles for Quincentennial activities. One--Celebrate Discovery, Inc.--which takes its name from the Commission's Blueprint, will conduct a three-year thematic series of activities throughout the state. A second nonprofit corporation--Sail Boston'92--will concentrate solely on the events related to the Parade of Sail and activities for the officers and crews of the international tall ships that will sail into Boston Harbor and stay during the period July 11 through the 16th, 1992.

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FINANCING

The Massachusetts Columbus Commission has diligently sought to involve all community sectors - corporate, business, service and city and town government - in its plans because it was never intended that the celebratory program for the 500th anniversary of Columbus' voyages be conducted or financed by the state. Celebrate Discovery, Inc. represents a collaboration of some 17 corporations, businesses and other organizations with varied interests from across Massachusetts. It has a proposed three-year budget of \$735,000, which will be raised through corporate/business contributions, government and foundation grants and donated services. Sail Boston '92, the second nonprofit corporation involved, has set its budget at \$1.4 million for the Tall Ships Parade and all related activities during July of 1992. Those funds will be raised through special events, and a fund raising campaign that will target the Boston area development and tourist related industries.

CELEBRATE DISCOVERY, INC.

The Honorable John A. Volpe, former Massachusetts Governor and U.S.
Ambassador to Italy, Honorary Chairperson

Senator Louis P. Bertronazzi, Chairman, Massachusetts Christopher
Columbus Quincentennial Commission, ex officio member

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